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UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of: **OIDA, Hironori, et al.**

Group Art Unit: **3676**

Serial No.: **10/620,372**

Examiner: **Alison K. PICKARD**

Filed: **July 17, 2003**

P.T.O. Confirmation No.: **9720**

For: **METAL SEAL AND ATTACHMENT METHOD FOR THE SAME AND
TIGHT-SEAL CONSTRUCTION**

RESPONSE TO THE RESTRICTION
AND ELECTION OF SPECIES REQUIREMENTS
DATED DECEMBER 23, 2004

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Date: January 19, 2005

Sir:

This paper is submitted in response to the Official Action dated December 23, 2004.

In the outstanding Action, restriction is required between Group (I), claims 1 - 4 and 6 - 12, drawn to a metal seal; and Group (II), claim 5, drawn to a method of attaching a metal seal.

Also, election was required among Species: (a): Figures 1 - 3; (b): Figures 7 - 12; (c): Figures 13 - 16; (d): Figures 17 - 21; (3): Figures 23A and 23B; and (f): Figures 24A and 24B.

Response to the Restriction And Election of Species Requirements Dated December 23, 2004
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The applicants, without traverse, elect to prosecute the subject matter of Group (I), claims 1 - 4 and 6 - 12, and further elect the species embodying Species (a), Figures 1 - 3 of Group (I). Claims 1 and 2 read on this species.

Accordingly, claims 1 and 2 are elected, without traverse, in the prosecution of this application.

These elections are made without traverse, it being understood that the applicants' rights to the filing of Divisional applications directed to the non-elected claimed subject matters under 35 USC §120 and 35 USC §121 are retained.

The applicants respectfully request an early examination on the elected claims 1 and 2, and favorable action on the merits. If the Examiner has any questions with this Response, please feel free to call the undersigned attorney at the indicated telephone number.

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In the event that this paper is not timely filed, the applicants hereby petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fee for any such extension may be charged to our Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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